

Appendix AMarked-Up Version of Claims in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/620,162

6. ~~(amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the manganate material is selected from the group consisting of $\text{La}_x\text{Mg}_y\text{MnO}_3$, $\text{La}_x\text{Ca}_y\text{MnO}_3$, $\text{La}_x\text{Sr}_y\text{MnO}_3$, $\text{La}_x\text{Ba}_y\text{MnO}_3$, wherein $0.5 < (x+y) < 0.9$.~~

14. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the precursor(s) comprise a mixture of β -diketonate [compound] compounds selected from the group consisting of $\text{La}(\text{thd})_3$, $\text{Ca}(\text{thd})_2$ and $\text{Mn}(\text{thd})_3$.

18. ~~(amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said manganate material has A-site deficient stoichiometry, where $0.5 < (\text{La} + \text{Ca}) < 0.9$.~~

20. ~~(amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said manganate material has A-site deficient stoichiometry, where $0.5 < (\text{La} + \text{Sr}) < 0.9$.~~

22. ~~(amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said manganate material has A-site deficient stoichiometry, where $0.5 < (\text{La} + \text{Ba}) < 0.9$.~~

27. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said [thin film] manganate material has a Curie temperature [above 273°K] that is between 273 K and 334 K.

28. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein said manganate material is annealed in oxygen.